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Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 26, 2003.

*Tami M. Procopio*  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Lee A. BULLA, Jr.,  
and Mehmet CANDAS

Serial No.: 09/696,801

Filing Date: 25 October 2000

For: GENE MINING SYSTEM AND  
METHOD

Examiner: Lori A. Clow, Ph.D.

Group Art Unit: 1631

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to an Office Action herein, mailed 26 August 2003, time for response to which was set to expire 26 November 2003. Applicants appreciate the consideration and courtesy extended to Dr. Lee Bulla, one of the inventors, and the undersigned representative in an interview on 7 November 2003. The discussion was most helpful.

All pending claims were rejected; the rejection is non-final. Careful consideration has been given to the grounds for rejection and to the discussion at the interview, and the following amendment and discussion are offered in response. The claims have been amended as suggested

at the interview; it is understood that these amendments overcome the rejections of record.

However, as will be clear from the text of the remarks, applicants do not believe these amendments were in fact necessary to distinguish the art of record. Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution, the claims have been amended as suggested. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.